

AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A device for lifting a lift-tab lever on a container, the device comprising:

a monolithic body portion having proximal and distal end areas, said body portion including a generally hemispherical internal cavity having a central axis and opening at said distal end area, and a channel extending along a perimeter of the hemispherical cavity in a spiral inclined planar configuration leading from the opening of the hemispherical cavity and terminating at an apex region of the hemispherical cavity.

2. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the channel is configured and dimensioned to engage a lift-tab lever on a beverage container.

3. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the body portion includes a cylindrical recess concentric with the hemispherical cavity and defined as extending into the body portion a predetermined distance from the distal end area thereof.

4. (Original) The device according to claim 3, wherein the cylindrical recess defines a recessed planar surface located at said predetermined distance into the body portion, said hemispherical cavity opening at said planar surface of the cylindrical recess.

5. (Original) The device according to claim 4, wherein the body portion includes a circular groove concentric with the hemispherical cavity and extending a distance into the body portion from the recess planar surface, said circular groove defined at the outer periphery of the recessed planar surface.

6. (Original) The device according to claim 5, wherein the circular groove is configured and dimensioned to engage an outer rim of a beverage container.

7. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the channel is located at different radial distances from the central axis of the hemispherical cavity as the channel progresses towards the apex region of the hemispherical cavity.

8. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the angle of the channel relative to the central axis of the hemispherical cavity and the distal end area of the body portion increases as the channel progresses towards the apex region of the hemispherical cavity.

9. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the channel has a uniform depth relative to the perimeter of the hemispherical cavity.

10. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the channel has a gradually decreasing depth as it progresses from the distal end area of the body portion towards the apex region of the hemispherical cavity thereby providing a decrease in surface area of the channel as it progresses towards the apex region of the hemispherical cavity.

11. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the body portion is constructed from at least one material selected from the group consisting of metal, plastic, ceramic and glass.

12. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the body portion has a generally cylindrical shape.

13. (Original) The device according to claim 1, further comprising:
a ring gear connected to a top surface of the body portion;
a motor having a drive gear operatively engaging the ring gear; and
a housing including an alignment skirt configured and dimensioned to receive a beverage container, said housing supporting the motor and body portion.

14. (Original) The device according to claim 1, further comprising:
a housing including an alignment skirt configured and dimensioned to receive a beverage container, said alignment skirt having an inner periphery including at least one helical groove extending from a proximal portion to a distal portion thereof; and
a spring mounted in the top portion of the alignment skirt and operatively engaging the body portion;
wherein the body portion includes at least one pin slidably engaging said at least one helical groove.

15. (Currently Amended) A device for rotatably lifting a lever, the device comprising:

a body portion having proximal and distal end areas, said body portion including an internal cavity centered about an axis and opening at the distal end area thereof, and at least one channel extending along a perimeter of the internal cavity in an inclined planar configuration leading from the opening of the internal cavity and extending towards a top region of the internal cavity;

wherein the internal cavity has a generally hemispherical cross-sectional profile.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) The device according to claim 15, wherein the at least one channel has a spiral inclined planar configuration extending from the opening of the internal cavity and terminating at the top region of the internal cavity.

18. (Original) The device according to claim 15, wherein the engaging body portion has a generally circular shape.

19. (Currently Amended) A device for rotatably lifting a lever, the device comprising:

a body portion having proximal and distal end areas, said body portion including an internal cavity centered about an axis and opening at the distal end area thereof, and at least one channel extending along a perimeter of the internal cavity in an inclined planar configuration leading from the opening of the internal cavity and extending towards a top region of the internal cavity; ~~The device according to claim 15, further comprising:~~

a ring gear connected to a top surface of the body portion;
a motor having a drive gear operatively the ring gear; and
a housing supporting the motor and body portion and including an alignment skirt projecting downwardly from the body portion.

20. (Original) The device according to claim 19, further comprising:

a housing including an alignment skirt having an inner periphery with at least one helical groove extending from a proximal portion to a distal portion thereof; and
a spring mounted in the proximal portion of the alignment skirt and operatively engaging the body portion;

wherein the cylindrical body portion includes at least one pin slidably engaging said at least one helical groove.